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JOINT COMMITTEE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

ER9-7571

**APPOINTED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**C. E. Black, Chairman
Woodrow Wilson Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey**

October 4, 1957

**Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.**

Dear Allen:

This year the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies is making a comprehensive study of Russian area training and research in the United States during the past decade, with a view to making recommendations for the next phase of the development of this field. The enclosed statement will give you an idea of the scope of this study.

One of the important questions we face is to determine the extent to which Russian area training in the universities has been of value to government agencies, and what criticisms or recommendations the latter may have in this regard. As your agency is probably the largest employer of personnel trained in the Russian area, it would be of great value to us if we could draw on your experience.

I am therefore writing to ask if you could refer us to the member or members of your staff particularly concerned with recruiting and training personnel for Russian area research. Mr. John M. Thompson, Jr. the staff assistant who is currently working on this question, is planning to visit Washington in the near future to discuss training problems with government agencies.

Mr. Thompson is a graduate of the Russian Institute at Columbia University, and after a tour of duty as a Foreign Service Officer has returned to academic life for the purpose of undertaking this study. He

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was formerly associated with the Soviet area training and research fellowship program of the Ford Foundation, and he is currently serving on the staff of the Social Science Research Council, where his primary responsibility is our survey of Russian studies. It would be most helpful if he could have the benefit of the experience of your staff in this important field.

A good many criticisms have been made of academic training in the Russian area in the past decade, and the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies hopes that a thorough examination of this problem will be of benefit both to the universities and to the government.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

C. E. Black
Chairman

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